

Mary C. Heist

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DANIEL WEBSTER HAMILTON was born near Dixon, Ogle County, Illinois, December 20, 1861, and died in a hospital in Rochester, Minnesota, August 21, 1936. Burial was in Sixteen Cemetery near Thornburg, Keokuk County, Iowa. His parents, Francis and Abigail J. Hamilton, removed with their family to Miami County, Kansas, in 1868, and to a farm in Prairie Township, Keokuk County, Iowa, in 1874. Here he grew to manhood, attended public school, was graduated from the Law Department of the State University of Iowa in 1884, was admitted to the bar the same year and began practice in Sigourney. He developed into a fluent and persuasive public speaker, a good trial lawyer, and naturally turned to politics. He was appointed by President Cleveland postmaster at Sigourney in 1894 and served four years. In 1906 he received the Democratic nomination for Congress in the Sixth District, was elected, defeating John F. Lacey, the Republican nominee, in the general election, and served in the Sixtieth Congress. In 1908 he was defeated for re-election by Nathan E. Kendall, the Republican nominee, and resumed his law practice at Sigourney, being joined by Frank M. Beatty as Hamilton & Beatty. In 1918 he was elected judge of the Sixth Judicial District. A few years thereafter he removed to Grinnell. He was regularly re-elected judge and had two years yet to serve when called by death. He won the commendation of the bar and of the public in his work on the bench, manifesting the talent and qualities of an able and just judge.

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MARY C. (MOLLIE) HEIST was born at Sandy Point, Decatur County, Iowa, July 16, 1862, and died in Des Moines August 14, 1936. Burial was at Allerton, Wayne County. Her parents were Abraham and Mary Ann (Dawes) Reck. In January, 1880, when her father came to Des Moines to serve as representative in the Eighteenth General Assembly Mollie accompanied him, and was appointed one of the paper folders for the House. This assembly met in the old Capitol, it being four years before the present Capitol was occupied. The next service she rendered the state was in the Twenty-first General Assembly, 1886, when she was engrossing clerk for the House, which service she repeated in the following general assemblies: Twenty-second (1888), Twenty-fifth (1894), Twenty-sixth (1896), Twenty-sixth Extra (Code revision, 1897), Twenty-seventh (1898), Twenty-eighth (1900), Twenty-ninth (1902), Thirtieth (1904), Thirty-first (1906), Thirty-second (1907), Thirty-third (1909). In 1913 Governor Clarke appointed her notarial secretary. She served in that position four years under Governor Clarke, four years under Governor Harding, four years under Governor Kendall, six years under Governor Hammill, and two years under Governor Turner. So far as we know her service in the Eighteenth General Assembly was at an earlier date than any present or previous employee of the state now living. Her twelve sessions as engrossing clerk of the House is proof of her devoted care and skill in meticulous work. Her work as notarial secretary, while not so exacting,

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